

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 2, 1991

TO: BRIDGE DIVISION PERSONNEL
FROM: Veral Pinkerton, Bridge Engineer
SUBJECT: Major Overloads on Continuous Spans

We routinely review overload permit requests for major overloads in the range of 300,000 pounds gross loading. These overloads usually have axle groupings with severe concentrations of axles spaced approximately 80 feet apart. (See attached sketch). This loading produces maximum negative stresses over the intermediate supports for continuous W-beam units with span lengths of 50 - 100 feet. This makes these units the weakest link in our interstate highway system.

Therefore, on all freeway and primary highway bridges in this span range, increase the unfactored design negative live load moment by 20 percent for W-beams.

VP:bw